

When I visited the Bayswater Bird Sanctuary I was accompanied by Mr E. Singleton, who is a regular bird-watcher in the area.

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Diamond doves and other northern birds in the South-West of W.A. in 1981.—

The Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*) has been recorded in the South-West on a number of occasions in the past. Serventy and Whittell gave its normal southern limit as the Murchison country but sometimes visiting the South-West. They also mention several other recordings including 1912 when a pair nested near Moora, but it is not stated whether or not the nesting was successful. Masters and Milhinch (*Emu*, 74: 228-244, 1974) record dates when single birds were seen in the Shire of Northam. During 1981 Diamond Doves were again reported from widespread points in the Shire. Two pairs nested near the homestead on my farm 8 km south-east of the town of Northam, and the results of the nestings are shown in Table 1.

<u>Pair</u>	<u>Nesting Tree</u>	<u>Date Nest found</u>	<u>Size of Clutch</u>	<u>Results</u>
A,B	Tamarix gallica	30.10.1981	2	Hatched 11.11.81 1 chick died 20.11.81 2nd chick died 21.11.81
C,D,	York Gum Eucalyptus loxophleba	9.11.1981	2	C killed by domestic cat 12.11.81 D abandoned nest 14.11.81 and left the area.
A,B, 2nd nesting	Marri Eucalyptus calophylla	December 1981	2	A Killed by Goshawk 16.12.81 Chicks about 9 days old had died the same day. B remained until 8.1.82

Table 1. Diamond Doves nesting at Seabrook, 8km south-east of Northam. First arrived 14 October 1981.

The cause of the deaths of the chicks is not known. Each of their crops was well filled with very small grass seeds and the nests were undisturbed.

A few Cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) also have been noted in the Shire of Northam and in the south-west portion of the state, some appearing as far south as Lake Grace.

Budgerygars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) were seen in the Northam district and south of Tammin.

The Masked Woodswallow (*Artamus personatus*) which is reported more often in the South-West, appeared to be in larger numbers in 1981 (Serventy, W. Aust. Nat. 12, 143: 1973). G. Chapman observed flocks at Gooseberry Hill and Pickering Brook in October, while at Northam J.R. Masters saw a flock at "Glen Avon", and C. Richter reported a flock of 20-30 birds, and found a nest south of Grass Valley containing almost fully fledged young in the first week of December. This is the first time I have heard of them nesting within the Shire of Northam. R. Garstoe reported a flock of over 20 at Collanilling north-east of Wagin, and a large flock of about 300 flying over mallee at Ongerup, also several birds east of Lake King.

Another unusual sighting was a pair of Orange Chats (*Ephthianura aurifrons*) at lake Hinds, and another pair was seen at Yandegin south-east of Bonnie Rock.

Early in the winter, Bustards (*Ardeotis australis*) were reported in greater than usual numbers in the Dandaragan coastal area.

Some of the regular springtime migrants to the South-West such as the Rufous Songlark (*Cinclorhampus mathewsi*) and White-winged Triller (*Lalage sueurii*) were seen in unusually large numbers in the Northam area and breeding very actively with numerous nests being found.

—A.L. MILHINCH, P.O. Box 179, Northam, W.A. 6401